

I am shocked and saddened by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to pre-empt regular programming to air 'Stolen Honor', an anti-Kerry documentary, days before the general election. Their determination to air this program is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Their refusal to air the Nightline special hosted by Ted Koppel honoring the service men and woman who have died in Iraq is another example of media consolidation. Essentially, they prevented their viewers from completely appreciating the extraordinary sacrifices made on the behalf of all Americans, and on behalf of the Iraqi people. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line, and often what is harmful to democracy. It is more important to me that viewers see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter, instead of something produced at "News Central" far away.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,